AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

At page 7, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 10 and ending at line 20 with the following paragraph:

A first form of the heating unit 8 is shown in Figures 2-6. The heating unit 8 includes a steel housing 14, which is supported on legs 15 and has a lid 16 that is pivotally mounted on a hinge bar and is operable by means of a hydraulic actuator 20 that acts on a drive arm 22. The housing 14 supports a refractory liner 24 in the form of an elongate rectangular tub, forming an open-topped chamber 25 having a bottom and a peripheral wall for the liquid metal. An inlet trough 26 is provided in one side wall 27 of the housing in the peripheral wall toward one end of the chamber 25, and an outlet trough 28 is provided on the opposite side 29 of the housing in the peripheral wall, towards the opposite end of the chamber 25, so that liquid metal flowing through the tub flows lengthwise through the chamber 25. The inlet and outlet troughs 26, 28 are V-shaped and extend to slightly less than half the depth of the tub, and are lined with a refractory material. A drain outlet 30 is provided in the end wall 31 of the housing.

At page 7, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 21 and ending at line 28, with the following paragraph:

Located within the chamber 25 are two electrical resistance heating elements. These elements 32 are contained within refractory sleeves, for example of nitride bonded silicon carbide, and have a power rating of 8kW each. The heating elements 32 extend parallel to one another along the length of the chamber, and are positioned ~~towards~~ above the bottom of the chamber, below the lowest point of the outlet trough 28 so that in use they are completely immersed in liquid metal flowing through the chamber. The heating elements 32 are secured within sealed openings in the rear wall 34 of the housing and are provided on their external ends with electrical connectors 36, for connection to a power supply.